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HOW POLAND IS GOVERNED

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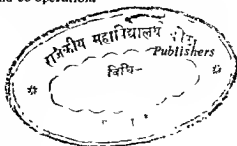
PREFACE

This is a short brochure on the constitutional and administrative system of *Poland*. The purpose of this description is to provide our countrymen, specially the student-world, with a picture of *Polish* executive, legislature and judiciary. It also throws light on some other important aspects of local and central administration of *Poland* and presents an authentic account of its role in international affairs.

It may be added that the entire or most of the material of this brochure is based on the fact sheets, reference papers and other official publications supplied to us by the *Polish* Embassy or Government. The volume narrates the whole matter, just as it is described in the official publications of the concerned Embassy or Government. Only the sequence has been arranged to make it easier for the reader to understand the subject-matter. We are extremely grateful to the *Polish* Embassy for generously providing us with the material of our interest and extending co-operation in every respect.

It need hardly be added that the publishers do not claim or acknowledge any responsibility for the views expressed or matter described in the volume.

Once again we express our gratitude to the *Polish* Embassy for supplying us material of our interest and extending their kind co-operation.



I

INTRODUCTION

The name "Poland" originates from the slavic tribe of the Polanie who inhabited the territory of present Great Poland (Wielkopolska) in the early Middle Ages. It was used as the name of the State already in the beginning of the 11th century.

THE COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE

Polish Language

Polish belongs to the family of Indo-European languages and, within it, to the Slavonic group; together with Czech, Slovakian and Lusat-

ion, it forms the so-called West Slavic group.

Area

With an area of 312,677 square kilometres (120,724 square miles), Poland ranks sixth in Europe. The country extends 689 kilometres (430 miles) from east to west, and 649 kilometres (404 miles) from north to south. The total length of Poland's boundaries is 3,538 kilometres (2,198 miles).

The territory of the Polish People's Republic covers almost entirely the basins of the Vistula and Odra rivers which form the central part of the European lowland in the area between the Baltic Sea in the north and the arc of the Carpathians and the block of the Sudetes in the south.

Configuration of Surface

Poland is a distinctly low country which is shown, among others, by the fact that the average altitude of her territory is estimated at only 173 metres (567 feet) above sea level.

The highest point in Poland is Rysy Peak in the Tatra Mountains 2,499 metres (8,199 feet) above sea level. The lowest point in Poland is a depression of 1.8 metres (5.9 feet) below sea level near Raczkó Elblaskie in the delta of the Vistula.

Climate

Poland lies in a zone of moderate transitional climate characterized by a considerable variety of depressions moving upon her territory from the Atlantic ocean; consequently, Poland's climate is distinguished by a great variability and even capricious weather, and by great variability and even capricious weather, and by great fluctuations in the course of the seasons (especially of the winters) in the various years. The peculiar feature of the climate is the appearance of six seasons: early spring, summer, autumn, early winter, winter.

Population

Towards the end of 1970, Poland had a population of 32,834,000. Within the past twenty years, the population has increased by 8.1 million, or by over 30 per cent.

Present-day Poland is a nationally homogeneous country; the national minorities account for a small percentage—1.2 per cent of the total (about 0.5 million).

Capital

The capital of Poland is Warsaw, a city existing since the 13th century. It became the capital of the country at the turn of the 16th/17th century.

ADMINISTRATION

For the purposes of administration Poland is divided into seventeen voivodships (provinces) and the following five cities with voivodship status. Warsaw, Lodz, Cracow, Poznan and Wroclaw.

The voivodships are.

Warsaw	Kielce	Poznan
Bialystok	Koszalin	Rzeszow
Bydgoszcz	Lodz	Szczecin
Cracow	Lublin	Wroclaw
Gdansk	Olsztyn	Zielona Gora
Katowice	Opole	

The voivodships are subdivided into 391 districts, of which 74 towns and 39 town boroughs possess district status. There are in Poland 820 towns, 71 settlements and 5,234 rural communities. Warsaw, the capital of Poland, had 1,317,000 inhabitants in September 1971.

HISTORY

In November 1918 an independent Polish state reemerg-

ed after 123 years of slavery. Poland recovered her independence as a result of long years of ever more general national efforts in which all the classes and social strata took part. But Poland could appear as an independent state again only when the balance of forces in the international arena was in her favour.

In September 1939, Germany threw eighty-five per cent of her military potential against Poland. Despite heroic resistance, Poland collapsed within a month and Germany occupied the whole ethnically Polish area.

One unit of the regular Polish Army under Major Henryk Dobrzanski, known as Hubal, continued fighting till May 1940. Hubal carried out the first partisan operations in the Kielce region. Western voivodships were incorporated into the Reich and the Germans formed the so-called Government General from the rest of Poland under their occupation.

The Germans intended not only the liquidation of the Polish State but aimed at the physical and biological extermination of the greater part of the Polish nation. The rest was to be turned into docile, submissive serfs. To this end, they organized a regime of unprecedented terror, extermination, mass executions, inhuman torture in prisons and concentration camps, and the terrible conditions in forced labour camps. The first and greatest concentration camp, a real "death factory," was organized in mid 1940 at Oswiecim (Auschwitz), where some four million people of different nationality, most of them Polish, were murdered. Like in all other occupied countries, the Germans proceeded with the extermination of the Jewish population. At the beginning of occupation they organized ghettos in all larger towns, where the Jewish population was herded. From ghettos they were sent in batches to their death in extermination camps.

Defence against extermination and underground offensive operations conducted by the Poles demanded an intensity of effort unprecedented in the whole of Polish history. The struggle continued on a broad front and engaged important

enemy forces. It demanded tremendous sacrifices and cost the Nazis heavy losses. The Polish troops fought on every front, in France, in Norway, in Africa, in Italy, in the Allied air forces and navy. After the outbreak of the German-Soviet War, they also fought alongside the Soviet Army. The first Polish force formed abroad was organized at the end of 1939 and beginning of 1940 in France by General Wladyslaw Sikorski, Premier of the Government-in-Exile. These forces included members of the Poles in France who had fought in Spain and were interned in France, and those who after the September campaign, had reached France by various routes. Polish forces distinguished themselves at Narvik and in the French campaign. After the collapse of France, some of them managed to cross to Britain. Polish units which had been formed in the Soviet Union in 1941 were evacuated to Iran and Palestine in 1942, and fought under British command in Italy, and particularly distinguished themselves at Monte Cassino. The Polish Navy operated on all the seas and oceans and the Air Force won fame particularly in the Battle of Britain in 1940.

After the evacuation of the first Polish units from the Soviet Union, Poles in the USSR formed the Union of Polish Patriots and were granted assistance by the Soviet government to organize new units in 1943. First to be formed was the Tadeusz Kosciuszko Infantry Division, which went into action in October 1943 and fought its first battle at Lenino. The First Polish Army was formed in the USSR, and by the spring of 1944 it numbered 100,000 men. After the liberation of the eastern part of Poland the Second Polish Army was organized. During the last stage of the war, in the spring of 1945, the two armies together amounted to 150,000 men. Divisions of the First Army took part in the capture of Berlin and the Second Army took part in the capture of Dresden and in chasing the Germans in the direction of Prague. Polish forces in the West numbered about 110,000 and took part in the Italian campaign, in the liberation of France, Belgium, Holland, and in Germany.

Right from the beginning of the occupation the resist-

ance movement was organized and gained strength, gradually developing into partisan warfare. The call to open partisan operations came from the Polish Workers' Party (PPR), formed by Polish Communists in January 1942. The PPR organized the People's Guard, which began partisan operations in May 1942. The Home National Council, formed on the initiative of the PPR, was the national political representation. At the beginning of 1944 it created the People's Army, the core of which was formed by the People's Guard and armed units belonging to the revolutionary youth organization—the Union of Fighting Youth. In July 1944, the People's Army was merged with the reorganized Polish Army. Attacks on German units, blowing up bridges, railway lines and stores, saving prisoners from the Germans, attempts on Gestapo and police officials, such were the main partisan operations. Heavy partisan battles were fought in June 1944 in forests round Janow Lubelski, Lipsko and Solec.

In February 1942, the Home Army (AK) was organized as part of military forces under the Polish emigre government in London. Political plans of the London government and Home Army command were based on the theory of two enemies—Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. The Home Army was ordered to organize for a general, national uprising, which was to break out in the last stages of the war, and prepare the return to power of political forces which intended to reconstruct Poland as a State of the bourgeoisie and large landowners. Before engaging in partisan operations, the Home Army trained military cadres, carried out sabotage operations and military intelligence work. It supplied details of the German V-1 and V-2 rockets to the British government. From 1943 Home Army units also engaged in partisan operations.

Other political groups also had their separate military organizations.

The 1944 Soviet offensive liberated Polish territories between the Bug and Vistula rivers. Chelms Lubelski was

the first Polish town liberated by units of the First Polish Army on July 21st. That same day the Home National Council formed a democratic Polish government, known as the Polish Committee of National Liberation (PKWN). On the following day this Committee proclaimed a Manifesto, calling on the nation to continue the struggle against the Nazis and outlined a programme of revolutionary social and economic changes. The Manifesto proclaimed Poland within her ethnical frontiers, and demanded the return of lands seized by Germany many centuries ago. The Manifesto of the Polish Committee of National Liberation created the foundations of the social, economic and political system in the Polish People's Republic, as outlined in the ideological declarations of the Polish Workers' Party and the Home National Council. In December 1944, the Home National Council called into being the Provisional Government of the Polish Republic.

In view of the rapid Soviet advance towards the Vistula, the Home Army counted that the Soviet Army would shortly cross the river, and by agreement with the emigre London government, prepared a military uprising in Warsaw. The London government, intended this as an armed demonstration which would enable it to take over power in Warsaw as Soviet troops were entering the capital. But due to the distance covered since the beginning of the offensive, the Soviet Army was unable to force the Vistula. When the Uprising broke out on August 1st, 1944 all political and military organizations in the city joined in. The population of Warsaw gave an example of unprecedented heroism and sacrifice against overwhelming enemy odds. After two months of bloody fighting the Germans finally crushed the Uprising. Warsaw was almost totally destroyed and over 150,000 people were buried under the ruins.

The victorious offensive by Soviet and Polish troops, opened in January 1945, liberated the rest of Poland. Poland regained her ancient territories on the Odra and Nysa, the whole of Pomerania, Warmia and Masury.

As a result of military operations and systematic destruction by the Germans, Poland lost 22 per cent of her population and 38 per cent of her national wealth.

Warsaw and many other cities were almost completely destroyed. Over 300,000 houses throughout the country were ruined, half of them in the Western Territories, which had now reverted to Poland. The three great sea-ports of Szczecin, Gdynia and Gdansk were almost completely destroyed. Industry was either destroyed or plundered, all bridges had been blown up, railway lines, installations and rolling stock destroyed. A hundred thousand farms were left completely without livestock or supplies. Some 470,000 farms had been destroyed or burnt down.

In the first and hardest period of the country's reconstruction, the Soviet Union came to Poland's assistance.

Between 1945 and 1948 the most urgent task was to resettle the Western Territories and raise them from ruins. Four and a half million people were resettled in Olsztyn, Koszalin, Szczecin, Zielona Gora, Wrocław and Opole voivodships, on an area of roughly 101,000 square kilometres (938,380 square miles) representing 38 per cent of Polish territory. Alongside this action of resettlement, economic reconstruction on these territories proceeded rapidly.

The first elections to the Sejm were held in 1947 and brought victory of the democratic bloc led by the Polish Workers' Party and the Polish Socialist Party. These parties merged together at the unification congress held in December 1948, to form the Polish United Worker's Party (PZPR).

The Political nature of the country as a People's Democratic Republic was defined in the Constitution voted by the Second Sejm in 1952.

Concurrently with the construction of a new social, economic and political system, reconstruction of the country proceeded rapidly from the very first days of liberation.

2

THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution now in force was passed by the Sejm on 22 July 1952.

It lays down the legal principles of the State system and states that the Polish People's Republic is a republic of the working people, a State of the People's Democracy.

The working people exercise the authority of the State through their representatives elected to the Sejm of the Polish People's Republic, and to the People's Councils on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

Thus, all the laws of the Polish People's Republic express the interests and the will of the working people. In the exercise of their functions, all organs of State power and administration are supported by the conscious and active co-operation of the broadest masses of the people, and are bound to account to the Nation for their work.

On the basis of socialized means of production, trade, communications and credit, the Polish People's Republic promotes the economic and cultural life of the country in accordance with the national economic plan and, in particular, through the expansion of the socialist State industry which is the decisive factor in the transformation of social and economic relations.

The principal aim of the planned economic policy of the Polish People's Republic is the constant development of the productive forces of the country, the continuous raising of the standard of living of the working people, and the strengthening of the power, defence capacity and independence of the Motherland.

The Polish People's Republic promotes the development of various forms of the co-operative movement in town and country and gives it every help in the fulfilment of its tasks, while extending special care and protection to co-operative property, as social property.

The supreme organ of State authority is the Sejm of the Polish People's Republic.

The Sejm, which is the highest spokesman of the will of the working people of town and country, realises the sovereign rights of the Nation.

From among its members the Sejm elects the Council of State. The Council of State is the chief organ of State authority and performs the functions of the head of State.

The Council of Ministers is the supreme executive and administrative organ of State authority.

The Council of Ministers is responsible and accountable to the Sejm for its work, and when the Sejm is not in session, to the Council of State

The People's Councils are organs of State authority in rural communities, towns, in boroughs or larger towns, in districts and voivodships. They express the will of the working people and develop their creative initiative and activity in order to increase the strength, prosperity and culture of the Nation.

The People's Councils strengthen the links between the State authority and the working people of town and country, drawing increasing numbers of the working people into participation in governing the State

The People's Councils take constant care of the everyday needs and interests of the population, combat any manifestations of arbitrary and bureaucratic attitude towards citizens, exercise and promote social supervision over the activities of offices, enterprises, establishments and institutions.

The People's Councils fully exploit all local resources and possibilities for the general economic and cultural development of the area, so that the needs of the population may be satisfied to an ever increasing degree.

The administration of justice in the Polish People's Republic is carried out by the Supreme Court, Voivodship Courts, District Courts and Special Courts.

People's assessors take part in the hearing of cases and the pronouncement of judgment at the courts of first instance, except in cases specified by law.

Judges are independent and subject only to the law.

Citizens of the Polish People's Republic have the right to work, to rest, to health protection and to aid in the event of sickness or incapacity for work. They also have the right

to education, to benefit from cultural achievements and to participate in the development of the national culture.

Citizens of the Polish People's Republic, irrespective of their nationality, race or religion, enjoy equal rights in all spheres of public, political, economic, social and cultural life. Infringement of this principle by any direct or indirect granting of privileges, or restriction of rights on account of nationality, race or religion is punishable.

The Polish People's Republic guarantees to citizens freedom of conscience and religion, freedom of speech, of the press, of meetings and assemblies, of processions and demonstrations.

Every citizen who has reached the age of eighteen, irrespective of sex, nationality, race, religion, education, length of residence, social origin, profession or material situation, has the right to vote.

It is the duty of the citizens to observe the law and regulations. The particular duty of the citizen of the PPR is the defence of the Motherland.

The Constitution may be amended only by an Act passed by the Polish People's Republic by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes, with not less than half the total number of Deputies being present.

3

PRINCIPLES OF THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

Having regained her independence at the end of World War II, Poland entered upon a new road, the road of Socialist development. Revolutionary changes were enacted in the country's economic and social structure and for the first time power was taken over by the working people. The principles of this Polish system are defined by the Constitution of the Polish People's Republic, passed on July 22nd, 1952. The Constitution has been amended five times and the most

important change added to it in 1957 was the introduction of a new clause on the Supreme Chamber of Control.

The mechanism by which the most important institutions in the contemporary system in Poland function is closely connected with the general existing economic and social conditions. Two facts are fundamentally decisive in the functioning of political institutions: nationalization of the means of production and elimination of the property-owning classes, which had based their existence on labour exploitation. The Constitution affirms that power in Poland belongs to the working people. This rule carries profound socio-political significance which attains full justification in the economic and social conditions existing in Poland. The fact that power in the State rests in the hands of the working people, who are also the owners of means of production, determines the Socialist essence of the political system in the Polish People's Republic. It shapes the fundamental principles of this system. These principles are expressed as follows.

1. acceptance of a democratic form of representation based on a system of representative organs — the Sejm (Parliament) and the People's Councils (local organs) elected by direct suffrage. Members elected to these bodies are responsible to the electorate, who have the constitutional right to recall them before the term of office expires;

2. all other organs of State are subordinated to these representative organs, that is to the Sejm and People's Councils. They, in turn, either directly or indirectly, call into existence the organs of central and local administration, appoint judges and public prosecutors, as well as organs of State control. These organs draw their powers from the representative organs to which they are responsible and by which they may be recalled;

3. the shape of the legal order expresses the will and interests of the working people; hence drafts of laws, before being voted by Parliament, are frequently subject to widespr-

lead civic discussion, which often exerts a significant influence on the final shape of these laws. Occasionally, the preparation of draft laws is entrusted to the organizations concerned, for instance, work on the preparation of the labour code is executed by the Trade Unions;

4. broad participation of citizens in administering public affairs is reflected, amongst others, in the role played by the workers' self-government in production establishments, by agricultural circles in the country-side, in the tenant self-government in large cities, in assessor courts (which pass verdict jointly with assessors in the first instance), in transferring important privileges of control over the observance of the right-of-work regulations to the Trade Union and entrusting the civic social courts with judgement in petty offence cases. These civic courts operate in work establishments and in urban and rural developments. The facts and figures quoted below illustrate the scope and actual implementation of the principle of the citizens' participation in government and of their active commitment in the political and economic life of the country. More than 165,000 citizens elected by general suffrage are members of People's Councils, and deputies to the Sejm (460 deputies). More than 60,000 citizens, not members of People's Councils, are members of People's Councils Commissions. Over 45,000 citizens are court assessors, elected to assist professional judges for a three-year term of office. In industrial production establishments nearly 100,000 employees are members of workers' councils (one of three existing workers' self-government organs). Some 2.4 million peasants are associated in rural agricultural circles.

Scientific and technical associations have a membership of 297 thousand, recruited from among the technical intelligentsia and occupy an important position among civic self-government organizations. Thanks to these organizations, they are committed in the process of directing the development of modern technical thought.

The party system in Poland is also decisive in the fun-

ctioning of the political institutions. It is founded on cooperation between three political parties: the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR), the United Peasant Party (ZSL) and the Democratic Party (SD).

Cooperation and collaboration between the political parties takes concrete form during the preparation of joint electoral programmes, and in the course of their implementation, mainly in the Sejm and People's Councils.

4

THE SEYM AND THE COUNCIL OF STATE

The Seym (Parliament)

The highest organ of state authority is the Seym (a unicameral parliament). It realizes the sovereign rights of the nation. No other organ of state has power to dissolve the Seym or exercise constitutional control over its decisions.

The essential functions of the Seym are the following: enactment of laws and changes in the Constitution and control over the State administration, as well as control over the members of the Seym

with the power to suspend their immunity; the appointment of State authorities and the power to revoke them.

The Sejm approves the Budget and the national economic plans and appoints the Government of the Polish People's Republic.

The elections to the Sejm take place every four years on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

The present Sejm is composed of 460 deputies elected on June 1, 1969, out of the 622 candidates proposed by the National Unity Front committees in 80 constituencies. 263 deputies were elected for the first time. Out of the total of 21,148,879 persons entitled to vote, 20,642,449 (97.61%) went to the polls. Out of the total of 20,634,683 valid votes, 20,473,114 (99.22%) were cast for the National Unity Front candidates.

In the present Sejm 255 deputies are members of the Polish United Worker's Party, 117 of the United Peasant Party, 39 of the Democratic Party and 49 including 14 Catholic leaders do not belong to any party.

The youth organizations are represented by 21 deputies, and there are 62 women in the Sejm.

As regards professional structure, people engaged in production are the most numerous group. They account for 106 deputies, including 79 manual workers, 17 engineers and technicians, 7 managers of State enterprises and industrial amalgamations. There are 70 deputies representing agriculture, including 54 private farmers.

The Sejm is headed by a Praesidium composed of the Marshal of the Sejm and two Vice Marshals. An important part is played by the Council of Elders composed of the members of the Sejm Praesidium and the chairmen or the deputy chairmen of the Sejm groups.

At present there are 19 Sejm committees. The committees are auxiliary organs of the Sejm both in its legislative and control function. They thoroughly consider the bills forwarded to them by the Sejm and submit numerous suggestions addressed to various ministers or other representatives of the State administration organs.

Another auxiliary organ of the Sejm is the Sejm Office

The Sejm deputies enjoy the traditional privilege of immunity. They cannot be arrested or tried for criminal offences without the consent of the Sejm or the Council of State when the Sejm is not in session

The Sejm deputies are organized in groups according to their party affiliation. There also exist voivodship groups of deputies acting in the constituencies in order to ensure close contacts with the electorate.

Legislation is the main task of the Sejm. The Government, the Council of State and the deputies have the right to initiate legislation. The laws are published in the Journal of Laws of the Polish People's Republic.

The importance of the legislative functions exercised by the Sejm is best demonstrated by its achievements in the last eight years, when it passed over 150 laws, including among others, the Civil Code, the Family and Guardianship Code, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Nautical Code, the law on hygiene and security at work and in 1969 alone such new and important acts of law as the Penal Code, the Code of Penal Procedure and the Penitentiary Code. In voting the budget and national economic plan, the Sejm decides the basic direction of development of the whole national economy, since this economy is founded on social ownership which, as national property, remains at the disposal of the State and not in the hands of private factory owners, trusts or monopolies.

The Sejm also votes the National Economic Plans, both annual and long term, as well as the annual State budgets.

These two acts are of particular importance since they determine the State administrative and economic activity.

Apart from that the Sejm also approves the decrees issued by the Council of State between the Sejm sessions. It has been the practice of recent years that all the legislative functions have been concentrated in the Sejm. Decrees are issued only in exceptional cases.

Equally with the legislative functions, the Sejm exercises its control functions by discussing and adopting the Government reports on the implementation of the Budget and the National Economic Plan in each previous year. Having discussed the report, the Sejm appraises the activity of the Government. The Supreme Chamber of Control is a State organ which makes it possible for the Sejm to exercise control over the whole of State administration and national economy.

The deputies can address interpellations to the ministers.

The Sejm appoints the Council of State, the Government and the Chairman of the Supreme Chamber of Control.

The Council of State convenes the Sejm at least twice a year for ordinary sessions - a spring session and an autumn session. Extraordinary sessions of the Sejm may also be convened.

The Sejm maintains close contacts with the parliaments of many countries. Polish parliamentarians take an active part in the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The Council of State

The Council of State is a collective body which, in accordance with the latest amendment to the Constitution, is composed of the President of the Council of State, four vice-presidents, the Secretary of the Council of State, and eleven members. The Council of State is elected by the Sejm and is responsible to the Sejm for the whole of its activity.

The Council of State performs the functions of the Head of State.

One of the duties of the Council of State is to order general elections and to convene the sessions of the Sejm.

The Council of State also has the following powers : it can issue decrees during the periods between Sejm sessions (this happens very rarely) and it can appoint and recall members of the government at the motion of the prime minister; it appoints and recalls the Polish plenipotentiary representatives in other countries, accepts letters of credence or of recall of the diplomatic representatives accredited in Poland, and declares a state of war and mobilization.

The Council of State ratifies international agreements and gives notices of termination of such agreements. All orders, decorations and honourable distinctions are awarded by the Council of State which also makes appointments to specified civil and military posts (including the appointment of judges and professors in institutions of higher learning)

The Council of State supervises the People's Councils of all levels. It also has the power to exercise the prerogative of mercy.

The term of office of the Council of State is slightly longer than that of the Sejm, because after the dissolution of the Sejm the Council of State continues to be in office until the election of the Council of State by the new Sejm.

The Council of State takes decisions collectively at sittings held whenever the need arises. The Office of the Council of State carries out the office and executive work of the Council of State.

5

THE SUPREME CHAMBER OF CONTROL AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Supreme Chamber of Control

The Supreme Chamber of Control, called into being by virtue of the law passed by the Sejm on December 13th, 1957, is an organ of state control independent of the government.

The SCC is an organ of the Sejm, functioning under the supervision of the Council of State. Its work is to control the economic, financial, organizational and administrative activity of the central and local organs of

the state administration and the bodies subordinated to them from the point of view of legality, economical management, purposefulness and honesty of operation. The main task of the SCC is to control the implementation of the economic plan and state budget and on this basis it submits motion to the Sejm for a vote of confidence in the Government.

The SCC has local branches in the provinces. The Supreme Chamber of Control has the function of co-ordinating the activity of all other control organs operating in Poland.

The Council of Ministers

The Council of Ministers, headed by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, is the supreme executive and administrative organ of State authority. The Council of Ministers also has legislative initiative, that is the right to submit drafts of proposed laws to the Sejm.

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers is appointed by the Sejm at the first plenary meeting after the election. The members of the Government are also appointed by the Sejm, the candidates being proposed by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. The members of the Council of Ministers are : the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, vice-premiers, ministers and chairmen of commissions and committees designated by law and fulfilling the functions of supreme organs of the state administration.

The Council of Ministers is a collective body. It takes decisions and issues regulations (proposed by appropriate ministers) which are binding for both the entire State administration and the citizens. The decisions must not violate the Constitution or the laws passed by the Sejm.

The Government is the highest administrative authority in the State. It administers the entire State property and the State treasury, as well as all domains of public activity.

It works out draft budgets and plans for the development of the economy, thus shaping the development lines of the national economy.

The entire central and local administration machinery is subordinated to appropriate ministries and generally to the Government. The Government exercises its authority by way of decisions, regulations and circulars binding for the entire administration, as well as by way of controlling their implementation.

The decisions of the Council of Ministers, the orders of the Government, of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, of ministers and the orders issued by supreme organs of state administration are published in official gazettes: the *Dziennik Ustaw* (Journal of Laws) of the PPR or *Monitor Polski* (Polish Monitor).

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers directs the work of the Government and represents the Government before the Sejm. He co-ordinates the most important plans of the different ministries in the field of state administration; he issues decrees, orders and recommendations; he supervises the examination and implementation of the motions submitted by the Sejm committees and interpellations addressed to the Government by Sejm deputies.

In 1955, the Commission of the Council of Ministers for Problems of the Praesidia of People's Councils was set up in order to co-ordinate the work of the Praesidia and assist them

The Council of Ministers has its Planning Commission. About 20 central offices and institutions are under the direct supervision of the Council of Ministers.

The office of the Council of Ministers

Its scope of activity is as follows:—

— preparing the sessions of the Council of Ministers;

- keeping records of the decrees issued by the Council of Ministers and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, of resolutions of the Council of Ministers and of the orders of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, as well as control of their implementation;
- participation in the co-ordination of the more important activities of the ministries and central offices;
- elaboration of draft laws, editing and publication of the "Dziennik Ustaw" (Journal of Laws) of the Polish People's Republic and of the "Monitor Polski" (Polish Monitor),
- settlement of problems connected with motions submitted by members of Parliament and with the desiderata of the Sejm Committees;
- settlement of matters arising from the co-ordination and supervision of the activities of the Praesidia of the People's Councils by the Council of Ministers;
- examination of the complaints and claims sent in to the Council of Ministers and to the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Council of Ministers;

6

THE PEOPLE'S COUNCILS AND SOME OTHER ORGANS OF THE STATE

The People's Councils

The People's Councils are elected at the same time as the Sejm in general, equal elections, by direct and secret ballot, for a period of four years. They are local organs of state authority and administration.

The Councils function in all the units of territorial division, that is in the voivodships, districts and rural communities (villages), as well as in towns, boroughs of larger towns, and townships.

The Law on people's coun-

cils of January 25th, 1958 (amended 23 6 1963) constitutes the basis of the activity and powers of the various people's councils and strengthens the role of councillors and representative bodies (sessions of people's councils, commissions) in the system of people's councils. The people's councils direct economic, social and cultural activities in their area. They adopt, among other things, local economic plans and budgets. Their terms of reference cover all problems which are not reserved for other state organs. They co-ordinate in their area the activity of state organs and economic units which are not subordinated to them, (so-called horizontal co-ordination) and supervise them. An essential task of the people's councils is the improvement of the work of the administrative apparatus and the elimination of bureaucracy in dealings with citizens.

It is the duty of the people's councils to efficiently combine local interests with national interests. People's councils devote much attention to the implementation of the local programmes of the National Unity Front, as well as just and realistic postulates and proposals of the electorate.

The people's councils of a higher level supervise the activity of people's councils of the immediate lower level; the Council of State has supreme supervision over all the councils.

The Presidium of a people's council which is elected by the councillors and is the council's executive and administrative organ, is subordinated to its own council and is supervised by the praesidium of the council directly over it at a higher level and by the Council of Ministers (so-called double sub-ordination). The aim of this supervision is to ensure the conformity of action of the councils and their organs with law and state policy, and also to help them.

The councils solve the most important problems at plenary meetings. The Praesidium represents the people's council, executes its decisions, submits reports to it and administers the current affairs of the given area or locality. The

direct administration of various categories of questions belongs to departments subordinated to the Praesidium. There are standing commissions which are organs of the councils. Their members also include social activists who are not councillors. There are about 35,000 standing commissions operating at people's councils. The commissions number nearly a quarter of a million persons.

In order to ensure that the council's decisions and the activity of its organs fully correspond to the interests of the population, the people's councils maintain constant contacts with the community. This is accomplished above all through the intermediary of the councillors. They report to the community on their own activity, as well as on that of the council and its organs.

The total number of People's Councils of all levels is 5,934.

During the last elections (1969), 165,725 councillors were elected.

Planning Commission at the Council of Ministers

The Planning Commission at the Council of Ministers, called into being in place of the State Commission for Economic Planning, is a national organ of central planning

The main tasks of the Planning Commission are :

- elaborating and submitting motions to the Council of Ministers defining the main directions of the economic policy of the state;
- preparing draft long-range, several year and annual plans, investigating the course of implementation of economic plans and submitting motions aimed at guaranteeing their implementation;
- elaboration of the methods and mode of preparing economic plans;
- work on other problems on instructions from the Government.

The fundamental prerogative of the Planning Commission is analysis, evaluation, consultation of economic plans.

The Committee for Science and Technology

Set up in May 1963, the Committee for Science and Technology is the supreme organ of state administration in the field of planning, initiating and co-ordinating the development of science and technology, rational allocation of funds for scientific research and practical application of scientific and technical achievements.

The Chairman of the Committee has an advisory body - the Council of Science and Technology - which is headed by the President of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Professor Janusz Groszkowski.

The Committee also has a Council of Technical Publications and a number of specialized central commissions (in 1967 there were 26 of them) in the fields of science and technology which are most important for the national economy. It also has 13 special groups of experts studying different problems.

State Committee for Physical Culture and Tourism

The State Committee for Physical Culture and Tourism is a central organ of state administration for problems of the development of physical culture, sport and tourism, and is responsible to the Council of Ministers.

Its terms of reference include in particular: planning and directing the implementation of the plans for the development of physical culture, sport and tourism, co-ordination and supervision of the activity of institutions and organizations operating in this field. The Committee issues directives for the activity of numerous sports unions and federations. The Committee supervises higher schools of physical education. Other important fields of the activity of the Committee are: construction of sport and tourist installations and production of suitable equipment.

In the provinces there are voivodship, district and town committees of physical culture and tourism; which are departments of the praesidia of the local people's councils.

Central Statistical Office

The scope of activity of the Central Statistical Office includes :

conducting statistical investigation concerning economic, social and cultural life and technical progress, particular attention being paid to the implementation of the targets mapped out in the national economic plans, and the elaboration and publication of the results of statistical investigation, including economic analysis of statistical data;

organizing a uniform system of recording, reporting and statistics in the whole national economy and conducting scientific research on the methodology of statistics, and the organization and technique of collecting statistical data and processing them;

participation in the work of international organizations and elaboration of statistical data obtained from international statistical investigations.

Polish Committee for the Protection of Man's Environment

The Committee was called into being by the Order of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of August 4th, 1970. It co-ordinates the activity of all ministries and institutions concerned with the protection of natural environment. It also co-operates in this field with specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations. Besides, the Committee promotes advancement in the field of the protection of man's environment and prepares proposals concerning the application in Poland of solutions worked out by other countries.

7

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND CITIZENS RIGHTS

Administration of Justice

The administration of justice in Poland is carried out by: the Supreme Court, voivodship and district general courts and special courts (social insurance courts and military courts).

The courts guard the system of the Polish People's Republic, protect public property and interests, guard the rights and interests of the citizens. First instance courts try all cases with the participation of lay assessor judges *who are elected by the peo-*

ple's councils. The courts are independent, that is they are ruled by law alone.

Judges are appointed and recalled by the Council of State. Supreme Court Judges are appointed for 5 years.

The Supreme Court, the supreme organ supervising the activity of all other courts in the domain of the issuance of verdicts, is composed of 4 Chambers: Civil, Penal, Labour and Social Insurance, and Military.

The general courts submit periodical reports on their activity to the people's councils, the Supreme Court to the Council of State.

The right to order a retrial is vested in: the Minister of Justice, the Prosecutor General and the First President of the Supreme Court.

The prosecution system is headed by the Prosecutor General who is appointed by the Council of State and is responsible to it. The system is composed of the general prosecutor's office, the voivodship prosecutor's offices and district prosecutor's offices.

The prosecutor's offices supervise the observance of the law, protection of public property and respect for citizens' rights. They conduct investigations and supervise militia inquiries, detail counsel for the prosecution when a case comes to court and supervise the execution of the verdicts. Moreover, within the system of so-called general supervision, they supervise the legality of the activity of state organs and institutions, socialized economic units and social organizations.

In the execution of their duties, the organs of the prosecution system are not subordinated to the government and local authority organs, they are subordinated solely to the Prosecutor General.

Citizen's Rights

The Constitution guarantees to all citizens, political rights, namely freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of conscience and religion, of association and assembly, marches and demonstrations, personal inviolability, inviolability of domicile and secrecy of correspondence. Legal guarantees of these rights have been significantly enlarged by the new penal and civic procedure codes, passed in 1969.

The Constitution comprises an extensive catalogue of socio-economic rights such as the right to work, to rest and holidays, health protection and assistance in case of accident or incapacity to work (there is more on this subject in chapter VI) the right to education and access to the achievements of national culture. Marriage the family and personal property are protected by the State.

Every citizen, regardless of nationality, race or religion, possesses equal rights in all the aforementioned domains of public, political, economic, social and cultural life.

In conformance with the Constitution, civic rights and freedoms cannot be used to ends contradictory to the existing social, economic and political system which means they cannot be aimed against the foundations of the system. On the other hand, it is precisely — this socio-economic system, based on social ownership of the means of production, which provides the essential means of implementing citizens' social, economic and political rights. Due to this fact, they are not just bare worded declarations, but are introduced into practice as the country's social and economic development progresses.

The fundamental guarantees of the implementation of socio-economic and political civic rights and freedoms are contained in the very essence of the Socialist system.

At the same time, however, every citizen disposes of a

whole group of legal means, with the help of which he may protect his rights and privileges, were they infringed by abuse of authority or by unjustified or illegal administrative action.

Sentences of imprisonment are passed only by the independent courts, in accordance with penal procedure. Defendants are guaranteed the constitutional right of defence. Forfeiture of property may only be ruled under conditions and in a manner specified by law, as passed by the Sejm.

An employee may seek justice from his work establishment's arbitration commission, composed of members of the establishment's economic administration and the trade union on the principle of parity. Decisions of arbitration commissions must be unanimous. If they are not, employees may appeal to the court.

8

PARTY SYSTEM AND CIVIC ORGANISATION

The present Polish party system is based on three political parties: the Polish United Workers' Party, the United Peasant Party and the Democratic Party.

The characteristic feature of the system, which makes it essentially different from parliamentary party systems in the capitalist countries, is the elimination of the struggle for power in inter-party relations and recognition by the allied parties of the leading role of the Polish United Workers' Party in the

national commitment to the Socialist development of our country.

POLISH UNITED WORKERS' PARTY

The Polish United Workers' Party (Polish abbreviation PZPR) was founded on 15 December 1948, as the result of the merger of the Polish Workers' Party - formed during the Nazi occupation by former leaders of the Communist Party of Poland - and of the Polish Socialist Party. It follows the revolutionary traditions of the Polish working class movement and of its organizations such as Proletariat, the Social Democratic Party of Poland and Lithuania, the left wing of the Polish Socialist Party, the Communist Party of Poland and the Polish Workers' Party.

In the Statutes of the PUWP we read:

"Only the Socialist system can ensure a steady advance of the country's productive forces, a constant growth of the well-being and cultural standards of the population, and the freeing of man from exploitation and injustice. Only Socialism guarantees the national independence and sovereignty of the Polish State "

The PUWP is strong in the unity of its ranks in the struggle for the implementation of the aims of the Party, for a steady, all-round development of Poland, for ensuring her security and a worthy place in the international arena, for peace and socialism.

The PUWP is loyal to the principles of proletarian internationalism and combats nationalism in all its forms. Solidarity and brotherhood-in-arms unite the PUWP with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and other Communist and workers' parties of the world. In the process of building the socialist system, the PUWP draws lessons from its own experience and from that of fraternal parties, shaping its policy in a way conducive to the strengthening of the leading role of the Party in the People's State

and to the winning of confidence among the broadest masses of the working people.

The PUWP is the leading force of the National Unity Front comprising the political parties-PUWP, UPP, DP-co-operating within the Interparty Committee, and the social organizations-trade unions, youth unions, the Women's League, progressive unions of Catholics, etc.

Strengthening the alliance between the workers and peasants, the PUWP strives to ensure economic and cultural progress in the countryside, to secure a steady growth of agricultural production in individual, co-operative and State farms.

The Party unites the intelligentsia with the working masses on the basis of building socialism. The PUWP considers it one of its main tasks to support an all-round development of science and technology, of culture and art.

The Party is for the development of socialist democracy which encourages initiative, healthy criticism and active participation of the masses in the political, economic and cultural life of the country. It supports the development of workers' self-government and of economic, self-governing peasant organizations which draw ever broader sections of the population into participation in managing the economy and running the country. The Party combats all attempts on the part of retrogressive forces to use democracy for purposes hostile to socialism.

The Polish United Workers' Party sees in Poland's alliance with the Soviet Union-the first Socialist country-and with other countries of the socialist camp a precondition for the consolidation of Poland's independence, for the inviolability of her frontiers and for the socialist development of the country.

In its endeavours to achieve lasting peace and avert the threat of atomic war, the PUWP, in common with all pro-

gressive forces in the world, is guided by the principle of peaceful co-existence of states with different social systems.

The Polish United Workers' Party works actively for the unity and consolidation of the international communist and working class movement on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. The PUWP is in solidarity with the struggle of nations all over the world for peace, liberation and national sovereignty, for democracy, progress and socialism.

The supreme organ of the PUWP is the Party Congress which elects the members of the Central Committee. The Central Committee, in turn, from among its members elects the Political Bureau: for guiding the CC work between plenary sessions, and the Secretariat for guiding the day-to-day work.

1. X. 1970 the PUWP had over 2,296,000 members associated in more than 63,000 basic party organizations.

UNITED PEASANT PARTY

The United Peasant Party (Polish abbreviation ZSL) rallies the peasant masses for concentrated efforts in order to help develop the Polish People's Republic and strengthen its independence and security. It was formed in 1949.

The UPP represents the interests of the countryside linking them with the interests of all the people; it organizes broad peasant masses for participation in the management of state affairs, and for active participation in the building of socialism in our country.

The UPP accepts the principle of the worker-peasant alliance, in which the leading part belongs to the working class and its party-the Polish United Workers' Party. In its

political activity the UPP develops fraternal co-operation with the PUWP and aims at rallying the peasant masses in the National Unity Front.

The United Peasant Party takes an active part in the government of the People's State and in the management of the country's affairs. As a co governing party the UPP is especially co-responsible for the shaping of the agrarian policy of the State, for the development and proper functioning of all organs of the People's Government, agricultural self-government, rural co-operatives; for the development of education and culture in the countryside, for the work of the social, economic, educational and cultural organizations in the countryside.

The UPP's participation in the managing of state affairs is a result of the common struggle of the workers and peasants for their social and national liberation, for their rights, land and education for the people.

The common struggle of the workers and peasants against the landowners and capitalists, and the common work for the development of the PPR is the basis of workers' and peasants' rule.

The UPP realizes its programme through systematic political and organizational work in the UPP branches and supervisory party organizations, and through the participation of party members in the work of the Sejm, the Council of State, the Government, the People's Councils, Trade Unions and social, co-operative, cultural and other organizations, as well as through participation in the work of the people's councils, the National Unity Front committees, social and cultural organizations, the co-operative movement and the Rural Youth Union.

The Party Congress is the supreme organ of the UPP. The Congress elects the Central Committee which, from among its members, elects the members of the Pratsidium and the Secretariat.

In June 1971, the United Peasant Party had 421,027 members affiliated in some 26,000 circles.

ZIELONY SZTANDAR (The Green Banner), published twice a week, is the main press organ of the UPP. Moreover the UPP publishes a daily DZIENNIK LUDOWY (People's Daily), a theoretical magazine WIES WSPOLCZESNA (Modern Countryside), and three weeklies, including TYGODNIK KULTURALNY (Cultural Weekly).

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The Democratic Party (Polish abbreviation SD) was founded in 1939. It is a party of progressive, anti-fascist and patriotic groups of the intelligentsia.

During World War II the Democratic Party took part in the underground struggle against the Nazi occupant, under the slogans of democracy and independence.

After the war the Democratic Party continued its activity as a political party actively participating in the democratic bloc, on the side of the revolutionary working class movement. It took part in the work on the July Manifesto of the Polish National Liberation Committee in 1944. Representatives of the Democratic Party signed the Manifesto.

In People's Poland the Democratic Party has become a party of the urban intermediary strata.

The Democratic Party, which has made its contribution to the building and strengthening of a people's state in Poland, has declared itself for a socialist system. The Democratic Party believes that socialism is an idea that comprises and realizes the strivings of all truly democratic social movements, and that it is only through the building of socialism that it will be possible to embody the slogans of social justice and of lasting peace.

As a party representing various circles of the intelligentsia, artisans, small producers and tradesmen, the Democra-

tic Party participates in the governing of the State through its representatives in the Sejm, the Council of State, the Government and other organs of the State administration.

The Party Congress is the highest authority of the Democratic Party. The Congress elects the Central Committee which in turn elects the Praesidium of the Central Committee.

In June 1971, the Party had 89,704 members, affiliated in 2,700 circles.

The weekly TYGODNIK DEMOKRATYCZNY (Democratic Weekly) is the official organ of the Democratic Party. In addition, the Democratic Party publishes two dailies: KURIER POLSKI in Warsaw and ILUSTROWANY KURIER POLSKI in Bydgoszcz.

THE NATIONAL UNITY FRONT

All Polish political parties and social organizations co-operate in the National Unity Front which unites the progressive forces of the Polish community for the realization of the tasks facing the nation. The NUF organs are the All-Poland Committee of the National Unity Front and local NUF committees.

Committees are the basic units of the National Unity Front. The committees play a particularly important part during the electoral campaigns, for it is they that propose the lists of candidates, organize meetings of the candidates and the electors, etc. After the elections the NUF committees see to it that the contacts between deputies and councillors and the electorate are maintained during the entire term of office of the Sejm and the People's Councils. They also initiate and carry out various social campaigns which call for the co-operation of various social organizations and State authorities.

The NUF is directed by the All-Poland Committee of the National Unity Front composed of over 200 members

representing the Polish United Workers' Party and the other political parties, social and youth organizations, cultural, scientific and religious associations, as well as national minorities. The All Poland NUF Committee has a Praesidium and Secretariat which direct the current activity of the Front.

CIVIC ORGANISATIONS

To present the civic organizations' activities on a few pages is an extremely difficult task considering the fact that many thousands such organizations now exist in this country. We are, therefore, compelled to confine ourselves to draw a general picture of social life in Poland, to define its basic trends, the variety of human interests and organizational forms under which they appear.

In doing this, we shall refer to two convergent criteria. The first is the scope of social impact, which allows the distinction of mass or milieu organizations. The second is the programme criterion allowing the organizations' systematization from the point of view of the areas of interest and goals dominating their activities. The second criterion motivates the division of all organizations into ideo-political and educational, socio-professional, cultural and scientific, organizations unifying people with the same hobby or, in other words, relatively narrow and specialist interests, as well as organizations of a regional, nationality or religious character.

This kind of systematization is, in fact, conventional to a large extent and entirely schematic in view of permeable characteristics, activities and nature between individual organizations. For most of them represent definite ideational values and develop appropriate ideo-educational activity.

We give a few examples of the organization types characterized in line with the above mentioned criteria:

Mass organizations not only associate a large number

of members, but membership is not limited by particular and narrow criteria of one's education, interests, region, etc. As an example, mention should be made here of the professional movement which affiliates some 9.5 million people in the Trade Unions, youth organizations such as the Socialist Youth Union (1.217 million members), Rural Youth Union (1.050 million members), Polish Pathfinders' Association (2.033 million members), Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society (about 400 thousand members), National Defence League (2,311 million members), etc.

Milieu organizations unify people working in the same profession, representing the same specific interests, region, etc. The scope of their social influence or problems of direct interest dominant in their activity is limited when compared against that of the mass organizations. The diversity of these organizations, the broad range of their activities and interests will be illustrated by the following list of examples.

With regard to the programme involved, *ideo political and educational organizations* should be mentioned in the first place. In addition to the aforementioned youth organizations, the most important among them is the Union of Fighters for Freedom and Democracy, affiliating combatants, former participants in struggles for national and social liberation. This kind of organization is characterized by a concentrated activity in the sphere of ideo-political problems.

Socio-professional organizations, besides the Trade Unions which group practically all workers in the national economy, are a number of intellectual and professional associations such as the Polish Journalist's Association, Union of Polish Writers, Polish Plastic Artists' Association, Architects' Association, Librarians', Book-Keepers', and other associations and unions.

In accordance with the suggested systematization, the scientific and cultural organizations include such associations or societies whose basic integrating factor rests with a definite domain of science, culture or art, for instance, the Frederic

Chopin Society, and other scientific societies. This category also includes cultural organizations of a regional character such as, for instance, the Lubusz Region Cultural Society, or the Kuyavy-Pomerania Cultural Society. Included in this group are also different film clubs, and artistic circles and associations (theatrical, plastic and musical).

The most numerous among civic organizations and the most diversified, at the same time, are *organizations of a hobby nature*. Among them we find: the Polish Hunting Union, Polish Angling Union, Polish Association of Philatelists, or Polish Shortwave-Radio Association, sports clubs and many other organizations and societies.

Regional organizations are in a particularly dynamic stage of development and are connected with different regions or towns throughout the country. The problems they deal with range from those of economic activization to folklore creativeness and social life — all related to that particular region.

Nationality organizations centre representatives of national minority groups and conduct social and cultural activities. Among them we find: the Byelorussian Socio-Cultural Society, the Cultural Society of Czechs and Slovaks in Poland, the Jewish Socio-Cultural Society in Poland, etc. In view of the low percentage of national minorities in this country, these organizations, in fact, dispose of a comparatively narrow social base of activity.

Religious organizations group active members of individual denominations which, according to the Constitution of the Polish People's Republic, have full right to associate themselves. The Roman Catholic Church constitutes the most numerous religious group in this country, but there also exist many religious congregations and denominations.

9

POLAND'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Poland co-operates with all important governmental and *non-governmental* organizations in the world. Poland belongs not only to organizations dealing mainly with political or economic problems, but also to those concerned with social, cultural, scientific and technological questions; she also co-operates with less generally known, *and numerically smaller organizations*, where she is represented by similar national organizations or by her representatives.

As a founder member of

the United Nations, Poland is always loyal to the principles of the United Nations Charter. In her activity as UNO member, Poland consistently endeavours to ensure that the United Nations and all other organizations connected with the United Nations are effective instruments of international co-operation in the political, economic, social, scientific, technological and cultural fields.

Poland participates in the work of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization), UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), WHO (World Health Organization), ITU (International Telecommunications Union), UPU (Universal Postal Union), ILO (International Labour Organization), WMO (World Meteorological Organization), IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency). During her over 20 years' membership of the United Nations Poland has been on two occasions elected to the Security Council and three times to the Economic and Social Councils. In 1967, Poland became a member of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade).

Poland participates in the implementation of the United Nations Development Programme, developing her activity in UNCTAD (U.N. Conference on Trade and Development) and UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization). Poland is particularly active in the ECE (Economic Commission for Europe), an organ of the Economic and Social Council of the U.N., set up on the initiative of Poland in 1946. Poland is a member of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and participates in the work of the Nuclear Research Institute in Dubna.

Besides, Poland participates in the World Peace Council, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the World Federation of Democratic Women, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the International Association of Democratic Jurists, the International Union of Journalists

and many other educational, scientific and cultural organizations.

Poland's participation in international organizations is one of the forms of implementing her foreign policy. Poland believes that international organizations are the best example of how the principle of co-existence and co-operation of states with different social and economic systems can and should work in practice.
